

Testimony of Scott Bates
Nomination to CT Port Authority

As a native and resident of Stonington, I understand the centrality of ports to our shoreline economy, our heritage and identity. Just this morning, I walked to the Town Dock to see the fleet preparing for another long day of hard work. I walked past the apartments of those who work on the docks. My town and its port mean the world to me, and I would like to bring my understanding of smaller ports to this newly created Connecticut Port Authority.

As the son and grandson of New Londoners I can assure you; that strategic port is home to me as well. My father sailed the Thames River as a Coast Guard cadet, and built submarines on the shores of Groton. All my life I have understood that the revitalization of New London and prospects for southeastern Connecticut are tied to the sea. Looking to the future, I want our son Jacob to call Connecticut home- and a prosperous Connecticut and his prospects for success will depend on connecting Connecticut with global markets. Our ports will need to be that gateway to the world.

A few words about the experience I would bring to this position.

As a former Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the member of the Governor's policy staff charged with transportation and economic development issues, I understand how ports must be tied into the larger infrastructure of a state to be part of a strategic approach of leveraging assets to greatest effect.

As a former Senior Policy Advisor to the US House Homeland Security Committee, I worked for three years on matters involving port security. I am well familiar with the Department of Homeland Security and have an appreciation of how agencies across all levels of government must work together for the efficient and secure functioning of a port in a post 9/11 world.

As the former Police Commission Chairman in Stonington, I was in the Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Sandy and was the first to ask "what do we

do with the fleet?" when the word from Hartford was that the storm surge might overwhelm us. These are issues close to my heart and part of my professional experience.

In particular, I want to lend my perspectives in the international realm to the work of the Port Authority. Since the attacks of September 11th, I have been on over thirty missions to the Middle East, working with members of Parliament and government officials in places such as Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel. My work in strategic planning takes me to London and Sydney. As leader of a Washington, DC based think tank for over a decade, I was able to keep current with trends in international trade and economics and made many trips to the heart of growth in global commerce, East Asia.

I want to do all I can to help Connecticut navigate its way through this world of increased connection, opportunity and economic competition. Marketing the advantages of our ports, coordinating capital improvements and developing maritime strategy for our shoreline communities is one way I can contribute to that cause.

I look forward to helping the Connecticut Port Authority accomplish its mission of becoming a successful driver of economic development along our coastline. With your support- I pledge to preserve and protect the heritage of those who go to sea and work on its shores, while opening new gateways to prosperity for future generations.

Thank you to Senators Duff and Maynard for expressing their confidence in me to become a member of the Connecticut Port Authority, and thank you for your time and consideration.